

CU Cradle2Career

Pathways to Success for Every Student



Goal Team Monthly Report Goal Team: Workforce Readiness

1. **Team progress since the last report (attach meeting minutes if applicable)**
2. **If no significant progress made indicate issues with progress**
3. **Agenda item(s) for discussion at next Steering committee (if any).**
 - a. **Define issue and desired outcome of discussion.**
 - b. **Attach relevant documents needed to prepare for discussion**

6-8 Grade Sub-Committee

The committee met in August and came up with the following goal of a kick-off event to be hosted late this fall.

- Begin to develop, through collaboration, a common vision for a community plan to foster skill development and career exploration for all 6-8th grade youth that:
 - Uses the existing strengths of all participants
 - Can leverage additional resources for success
- Begin to identify barriers and possible solutions to:
 - Reaching all students
 - Expansion of initiatives that are working well
 - Gaps between what is being done and the common vision
 - Business buy-in

This committee continues to be interviewing key providers/schools to find out what they are doing to provide career education for the 6-8 grades. The committee is also asking everyone to provide their “vision” of what they would do want to do if there were no barriers. This will help to identify what is being done at present, will show any gaps, and then also will help to identify key things that should be done, and we can then discuss how to do them.

This information will be compiled into a report, and a meeting of all parties will be scheduled in late October/early November so that everything can be discussed. The goal will be to identify a common vision for career education for the 6-8 graders in our community and to

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foster relationships and potential combined efforts of the schools and providers so everyone works together for the common goal.

Youth Employment Committee

The group met in August to review the draft vision statement, which is a statement that if made five years from now would be WHO we are:

Youth employment in Champaign-Urbana gives our high school students the needed skills to fill the talent pipeline for our employers. Our comprehensive Youth Employment Network results in students with better grades and attendance. The network increases our community's economic growth and decreases crime and truancy.

The group is still working on fine tuning the above to have a more positive spin.

SYEP representatives provided an update on how programs performed this summer. Overall, there were more employers wanting students, than there were students. There seems to be less and less students wanting summer employment, so we want to find out why.

It was also discussed that the SYEP programs need to start earlier with recruiting students and getting resume review planning in place, as professionals who helped out earlier this year said they could provide their whole professional staff to assist students if provided more notice. Also, dates for resume reviewing need to be planned to not coincide with other testing or classes that prevented some attendance this year.

It was discussed that we should survey parents about youth employment, and questions need to be developed asking the right questions so we get meaningful answers.

We should also survey employers and students as well, with questions asked that give us what we need to know.

The committee worked on developing a questionnaire that the schools will try to administer this fall.

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The committee discussed what the Daily Bread does to get people the needed documents for employment. This can be developed into a sheet of necessary information that counselors can give to students and discuss with them. Committee members are working on developing this sheet of information.

The committee also discussed the possibility of organizing some sort of Workforce Summit in the fall to address Youth Employment in the community.

Other news:

The Initiative for Labor Diversity, developed by the U of I, UA Plumbers and Pipefitters #149, and the AFLCIO, is working towards getting more career awareness and education about careers in the trades into the schools and after school providers. A meeting was held in August that involved 60+ people in the trades, construction companies, the Cities of Champaign and Urbana, and various community organizations who want to work together to help build a pipeline of workers for available jobs in our area. This committee is especially wanting to increase minority and women participation and wants to change the perception about the trades as being a second tier career. It is projected that due to the rate of older workers retiring, with little or no pipeline of workers to replace them, there will be a big shortage of workers in the coming years. The Chamber is involved in the Youth Committee for this group and will work closely with committee members to help bring about more career awareness to the 6-12 grades.